

[illegible]

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a resin cultivating base on which seedlings of aquatic plants and so on are planted and which is partially immersed in not only a stream, a natural or man-made river, lake and marsh but also in a waterway drawing the water from them and communicating with reservoirs such as water purifying tanks of a sewage disposal plant or the like. In this specification, the stream, river, lake, marsh and waterway will be collectively called the “waterway” hereinafter. Further, the invention relates to a water purifying device which is constituted by the foregoing resin cultivating base where vegetation is planted and raised in order to promote natural purifying capabilities of the waterway, and to a water purifying method.

2. Description of the Related Art

Water pollution has become a serious with waterways. A variety of proposals have been made in order to overcome this problem.

As one method of overcoming water pollution, it is conceivable that water is temporarily drawn from the waterway using a pump, is purified by oxidization resulting from contact with gravel, sand filtering, coagulation filtering, precipitation and so on,

and is finally returned to the waterway. However, this method requires a large-scale water purifying plant, and a lot of labor and expense in order to maintain and manage the plant. Recently, various methods are being studied in order to purify water by promoting natural purifying capabilities of a waterway using a relatively simple method.

For promoting said natural purifying capabilities of a waterway, it has been proposed to root aquatic plants in a waterway so that the natural purifying capabilities of the waterway are promoted. Generally speaking, aquatic plants such as reeds usually grow very well in shallows which are 80 cm or less deep. However, since current waterways become very deep at river banks or lake sides due to bank protecting works, it is very difficult for the foregoing aquatic plants to grow naturally. In order to root the aquatic plants, foundation work has to be carried out on a relatively large scale, so that a foundation 81 is built using concrete, and a chamber 82 is provided on the foundation 81 as shown in Fig. 15. Then, coconut fiber 83 is filled in the chamber 82 so as to make a seed bed 80. In other words, the environment is improved for and enables growth of aquatic plants, which is effective in purifying the waterway. In this case, the foundation work is very expensive, and requires a lot of labor. Therefore, simple methods of promoting the natural purifying capabilities of the waterway have been studied recently.

Referring to Fig. 16, in one such method, a seed bed 80 is constituted by a mat 92 or the like, which is made of compressed and molded natural coconut shell, coconut chips, coconut carbon or the like. The mat 92 is covered by non-woven cloth or a net 91. Aquatic plants 70 are planted on the mat 92 as the seed bed, thereby forming a floating island. The floating island is placed in the waterway in order that the vegetation thereon promotes purification of the water. Referring to Fig. 17(B), an article comprises a string 96 as a core and loop yarns 97 wound around the string 96. A number of such articles are placed in the waterway so that microorganisms living in the water stick onto the loop yarns 97 and decompose organisms in the waterway, thereby purifying the waterway.

With the first mentioned method in which vegetation is raised on the seed bed 80 in order to purify the water, the mat 92 made of coconut fibers or made by

In order to demonstrate the water purification capabilities, the vegetation 70 should grow its roots 71 through which nutritious salt such as phosphorous, nitride and so on in the water are sucked. The voids of the seed bed 80 should be 80% or more in order to raise the roots 71 of the vegetation, and vegetation such as reeds and bulrush in particular. However, currently available seed beds 80 made of compressed coconut fibers or coconut shells usually have voids of 80% or less, and cannot sufficiently grow the roots 71 of the vegetation 70. On the other hand, the seed bed 80 made of coconut fibers or coconut shell and having voids of 80% or more cannot withstand weight of grown vegetation 70 such as reeds, and cannot effectively carry out its function.

As for the second mentioned method in which innumerable loop like cylindrical structures 95 are placed in the water, microorganisms living in the loop yarns 97 decompose organisms therein, which purifies the water. If such loop like cylindrical structures 95 are placed on a riverbed along the flow of the waterway as shown in Fig. 17(A), only the water flowing on the riverbed comes across them. Therefore, a very limited amount of water can come into contact with the loop like cylindrical structures 95, which means that sufficient water purification effects cannot be expected.

Still further, fibers serving as homes for microorganisms may be preferably

natural fibers having uneven surfaces and being comfortable rather than synthetic resin fibers having smooth surfaces. However, natural fibers tend to decay when they are used in the water for a long period of time.

Therefore, the present invention has been contemplated in order to overcome the foregoing problems of the related art. Particularly, the invention is aimed at providing a resin cultivating base which has voids appropriate for raising aquatic plants such as reeds and bulrush and is durable for a long period of time in water, which are contradictory each other. Further, the invention provides a water purifying device composed of the foregoing resin cultivating base, and a method of purifying water in order to improve the environment around the waterway and comfort people by promoting the natural purifying capabilities of the vegetation planted on the resin cultivating base.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention, the resin cultivating base 30 on which vegetation 70 is planted is partially immersed in the waterway and serves as a seed bed. The resin cultivating base 30 is a three-dimensional structure made of long and short thermoplastic resin filaments in the shape of a random loop or curl. The long and short thermoplastic resin filaments are contacted, entwined and gathered, and form a low density portion A which has many voids and has vegetation 70 planted thereon, and a high density portion B which has few voids. The low density portion A is 80% to 99% voids, and preferably 85% to 97%, or more preferably 90% to 95% voids.

Each resin cultivating base 30 has both low and high density portions in a unit base. The voids are derived using the following formula.

$$\text{Voids (\%)} = (1 - \text{bulk density/specific gravity of resin}) \times 100$$

The resin cultivating base 30 may be provided with recesses 32 on the upper surface thereof in order to plant vegetation 70. Further, it is possible to form hollow spaces 31 which open on an outer surface and are free from filaments. When the resin

cultivating base 30 is placed in the waterway, fish or other vegetation lives the hollow spaces 31, or fish can pass through the hollow spaces 31.

When a number of the resin cultivating base 30 with vegetation 70 planted thereon are coupled and are placed in the waterway to be purified, they can serve as a water purifying device 50.

According to the invention, the water purifying method comprises the steps of: planting vegetation on the resin cultivating base 30; installing the resin cultivating base 30 in the waterway; and helping the vegetation to grow thereon; allowing the vegetation to suck via its roots nutritious salt such as phosphorous, nitride and other water pollutants from the water for the purpose of purifying the waterway. Further, this method features that when the vegetation 70 have its roots 71 entwined with the filaments of the resin cultivating base 30, the resin cultivating base 30 serve as ideal homes for microorganisms which can effectively decompose water pollutants such as organisms.

The resin cultivating base 30 may have a multi-tier structure in which a resin cultivating base 30A having the low density portion A and a resin cultivating base 30B having the high density portion B are provided, i.e. a two-tier structure. The resin cultivating base 30A and 30B are independent from each other, and the resin cultivating base 30B is provided under the resin cultivating base 30A. A water flow space H can be formed between the high density portion B and the bottom of the waterway as shown in Fig. 11.

Further, the multi-tier structure is obtained by providing a resin cultivating base 30 having both the high low and high density portions in a unit base under the resin cultivating base 30A with the low density portion A. Still further, the resin cultivating base 30B having the high density portion B may be positioned under the resin cultivating base 30 having the low and high density portions in a unit base.

Preferably, pipes are provided in the water flow space H in order to generate bubbles therein and ventilate the water flow space H (see Fig. 11).

The multi-tier structure is used mainly in order to maintain the rigidity of the

6

0060931:10100

A plurality of waterways W communicating with the reservoir may be provided side by side, so that the water passing through the water purifying device may be returned to the river including the waterways W. Further, the water purifying device constituted by a plurality of resin cultivating base and provided for a single or a plurality of waterways may be covered by a vinyl house, and placed in a green house in order to promote growth of vegetation in winter (not shown).

When the multi-tier structure is employed, the resin cultivating base are mutually coupled via holes in high density portions at the corners thereof using fixtures such as bolts and nuts. Further, it is preferable that the fixtures may be fixedly attached via stays to the frame made of the hollow synthetic resin woods (not shown).

The hollow spaces 31 free from the filaments may be used to enable posts S to pass through in order that the resin cultivating base may be fixedly positioned in the waterway W (as shown in Fig. 14). The posts S are installed in the waterway.

7

which are oriented in the same direction in a unit base, so that a plurality of resin cultivating base may be laid over one after another with their directions of the high and low density portions alternately crossed (not shown).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The objects and advantages of the invention will become understood from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments thereof in connection with the accompanying drawings in which like numerals designate like elements, and in which:

Fig. 1 shows a device for manufacturing a resin cultivating base;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of a molding die;

Fig. 3 is a bottom elevation of the molding die;

Fig. 4 is a left side elevation of the molding die;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of the essential parts of nozzles, showing a modified example of the molding die;

Fig. 6 schematically shows a winder;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a resin cultivating base according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 8 shows an installation example of a water purifying device;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view schematically showing a method of installing the water purifying device;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view schematically showing another method of installing the water purifying device;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view schematically showing how resin cultivating base are installed in another example;

Fig. 12 is a sectional view schematically showing how resin cultivating base are installed in a further example;

Fig. 13 is a sectional view schematically showing how resin cultivating base are installed in a still further example;

8

Fig. 15 is a perspective view of an example of resin cultivating base of the related art;

Fig. 16 is a sectional and perspective view showing another example of a resin cultivating base of the related art;

Fig. 17(A) shows another resin cultivating base of the related art installed in the waterway in the flowing direction thereof; and

Fig. 17(B) shows the resin cultivating base of Fig. 17(A) installed in the waterway along the depth thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The invention will be described with reference to the preferred embodiment shown in the drawings.

The invention relates to a resin cultivating base which is suitable for planting and raising aquatic plants such as reed and bulrush in the waterway. The resin cultivating base with the foregoing vegetation planted thereon is placed in the waterway in order that the vegetation sucks nutritious salt such as nitride and phosphorus in the water. Further, microorganisms may live in the resin cultivating base where the vegetation has its roots entwined and decompose organisms in the water, thereby purifying the water. The resin cultivating base of the invention serves as a seed bed for the vegetation, provides homes for microorganisms together with roots of the vegetation planted thereon, and is placed in the waterway in order to purify it.

Resin cultivating base

The resin cultivating base of the invention has voids which do not adversely affect the growth of vegetation, especially aquatic plants, remains very durable for a long period of time, and is strong enough to withstand the weight of grown vegetation. The resin cultivating base comprises random long and/or short thermoplastic resin filaments

in the shape of a random loop or curl yarn which are contacted, entwined and gathered, and is a springy three-dimensional structure having predetermined voids and made of molded resin.

The resin cultivating base is manufactured as follows. For example, fused thermoplastic elastomer is extruded at a predetermined speed via a plurality of nozzles of an extruder, is fed by a pair of winders (to be described later) and is formed into solid or hollow filaments of 600 deniers to 90,000 deniers, preferably 3,000 deniers to 30,000 deniers, more preferably 6,000 deniers to 10,000 deniers. The filaments in a fused state are formed with curls of 1mm to 10mm in diameter, preferably with curls of 1mm to 5mm in diameter, are contacted and entwined in the water, are fed to a length of 25cm to 30cm at a regular speed, and fed to a length of 5cm to 10cm at a low speed. In other words, the resin cultivating base is the three-dimensional structure having a high density portion B of 5cm to 10cm long, a low density portion A being 20cm to 30cm thick, and 1000mm wide (refer to Fig. 1 and Fig. 7). The contacted, entwined and gathered parts of the filament are partially fused and stuck to one another.

The long and/or short filaments have a diameter of 0.2mm to 5.0mm, preferably a diameter of 0.3mm to 0.7mm.

The long and short filaments are preferably made of thermoplastic elastomer, e.g. polypropylene, polyester, nylon or PVC elastomer.

The bulk density of the resin cultivating base at the low density portion is 0.009g/cm^3 to 0.280g/cm^3 , preferably 0.027g/cm^3 to 0.210g/cm^3 , and most preferably 0.045g/cm^3 to 0.09g/cm^3 , while the bulk density at the high density portion is 0.45g/cm^3 to 1.25g/cm^3 , preferably 0.54g/cm^3 to 1.17g/cm^3 , and most preferably 0.63g/cm^3 to 1.10g/cm^3 .

The voids of the resin cultivating base at the low density portion are 80% to 99%, preferably 85% to 97%, and most preferably 90% to 95% while the voids at the high density portion are 40% to 90%, preferably 70% to 90%, and most preferably 75% to 85%.

Method of Manufacturing resin cultivating base

Referring to Fig. 1, the resin cultivating base is manufactured using an extruder 10. Polypropylene elastomer is put into the extruder 10 via a hopper 11, is melted and kneaded therein, is forcibly injected through a number of holes formed on a molding die 12 and having a predetermined diameter, is fed by feed rollers 14 of a winder 13 in a bath 15, is randomly curled or looped, is hardened in the water, and is taken up via taken-up rollers 16 as a molded springy resin product, i.e. the resin cultivating base 30. The thickness and bulk density of the resin cultivating base 30 are determined by the feed rollers 14. An example of the molding die 12 for injecting filaments constituting the resin cultivating base 30 is shown in Fig. 2 to Fig. 5.

Referring to Fig. 2, the molding die 12 is provided with a number of nozzles 21 via which synthetic resin filaments are injected. The filaments are then hardened.

In this embodiment, cores 22 project in the injecting direction of the molding die 12, and have a rectangular cross section. The cores 22 are used to form spaces 31 where no filaments are present in the resin cultivating base 30.

The spaces 31 will be used as homes for fish, shrimps, crabs, water insects and organisms in the water, or used as paths through which fish pass.

The spaces 31 have a rectangular cross section as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Alternatively, they may have a circular cross section or any other shape so long as they can serve as hoses for aquatic organisms or paths through which fish pass. Further, if no spaces 31 are required, no cores 22 will be provided in the molding die 12.

Fig. 5 shows a modified example of the nozzles 21 of the molding die 12 of Fig. 3. In this case, nozzles 21a are very crowded at the peripheral area of the molding die 12 and around the cores 22 defining the spaces 31. Therefore, the resin cultivating base 30 is the springy structure having filaments densely entwined at its peripheral edge and around the spaces 31. This structure is effective in making the resin cultivating base 30 more durable, and protecting it against deformation and breakdown.

The filaments injected from the molding die 12 are preferably fed by a pair of winders 13, each of which comprises the feed roller 14, driven rollers 17 and an endless belt 18 extending around the rollers 14 and 17. The feed rollers 14 rotate in opposite

directions. Specifically, the filaments injected from the molding die 12 are drawn and sandwiched between the endless belts 18. In this embodiment, the endless belts 18 of the winder 13 have uniformly spaced projections 19.

The projections 19 are in the shape of a cylinder or a truncated cone, and have a diameter of 50mm to 60mm and a height of 70mm to 100mm.

In this embodiment, the hot and soft filaments are brought into contact with and deformed by the projections 19 on the surface of the endless belts 18 of the winder 13. Therefore, the resin cultivating base 30 is formed with recesses 32 on its surfaces in accordance with the shape of the projections 19. The recesses 32 are controlled to be formed on the low density portion A of the resin cultivating base 30.

Aquatic plants such as reed and bulrush and other vegetation are planted in the recesses 32. The size of the recesses 32 may be determined as desired in accordance with kinds of vegetation 70 to be planted, the size of seedlings, and so on. In the example shown in Fig. 6, the recesses 32 are on opposite surfaces of the resin cultivating base 30. Alternatively, the recesses 32 may be made on one surface of the resin cultivating base 30.

If the feed rollers 14 are periodically rotated at a low speed for a predetermined period, the resin cultivating base 30 has high density portions B which are regularly spaced, and has a predetermined length and bulk density.

Fig. 7 shows one example of the resin cultivating base 30 prepared by the foregoing method. The resin cultivating base 30 is 1000mm long, 1000mm wide and 200mm thick, and is provided with 30 recesses 32 thereon, for example.

The resin cultivating base 30 includes four equally spaced high density portions B with the voids of 75% to 85%, and low density portions A with the voids of 90% to 95% which are sandwiched between the high density portions B.

With the resin cultivating base 30, the low density portions A have the voids which are suitable to plant and raise vegetation 70. On the other hand, the high density portions B not only totally reinforce the resin cultivating base 30 in order to protect it against deformation and damage caused by the weight of grown vegetation but also

The low and high density portions may be cut at to a desired length and used separately if necessary. Alternatively, the low and high density portions may be manufactured independently.

A water purifying device 50 is constituted by a single resin cultivating base 30 or a plurality of resin cultivating base 30 which are piled or linked to a predetermined size. Aquatic plants such as reed and bulrush or other vegetation is planted in the recesses 32 of the resin cultivating base 30, which are placed in the waterway. The water purifying device 50 purifies the waterway.

When the resin cultivating base 30 are laid over one after another, the resin cultivating base 30 except for that at the uppermost level may be free from the recesses

When the water purifying device 50 is installed in the waterway, the vegetation 70 sucks nutrients present in the water, makes roots and grows in the resin cultivating base 30. Especially, since the resin cultivating base 30 have voids of 80% or more, i.e. 90% to 95% in this embodiment, vegetation 70 can grow without any problem. On the other hand, the high density portions B provided at regular intervals can protect the resin cultivating base 30 against deformation and enable the resin cultivating base 30 to withstand the weight of grown up vegetation 70.

13

roots 71 and grows sufficiently, thereby effectively purifying the water.

The resin cultivating base 30 where the vegetation roots extensively can provide the environment suitable for breeding microorganisms which decompose organisms in the water. The resin cultivating base 30 itself includes filaments which are made of thermoplastic resin and have smooth surfaces. However, roots of the vegetation growing in the resin cultivating base 30 are natural fibers having uneven surfaces, which provide the environment where microorganisms easily stick and grow. Further, the roots of living vegetation do not decay even if they are in the water for a long period of time, so that the resin cultivating base 30 made of resin and the roots of vegetation forms an ideal breeding bed for microorganisms.

When the water passes through the resin cultivating base 30 constituting the water purifying device 50, organisms in the water stick to roots 71 of the vegetation 70 and filaments or decomposed by microorganisms living among the vegetation roots 71 and filaments, so that the water is effectively purified.

This water purifying device 50 also functions as egg laying areas, breeding areas or homes for fish, shrimps, crabs, aquatic insects and other living things in the water. Therefore, food refuse discharged into the waterway together with household sewage are caught by the resin cultivating base 30 and vegetation roots 71 which function as filters. Larger objects are eaten by living things in the water purifying device 50 while smaller objects such as dung of aquatic living things or food refuse not consumed as bait are decomposed by microorganisms in the water. In other words, the water purifying device 50 produces a preferable food chain or an ecological system which promotes natural purifying capabilities of the waterway, thereby effectively purifying the water.

Installation Examples

The water purifying device 50 is installed as follows. It is assumed here that a waterway is approximately 1.5m wide, approximately 1m deep, and 18m long. The water purifying device 50 comprises a plurality of resin cultivating base 30, and is 1000mm long, 1000mm wide and 200mm thick as shown in Fig. 7. The number of

resin cultivating base 30 to be piled is determined in accordance with the depth of the waterway, or preferably such that vegetation is not buried under the water or its roots are not exposed from the surface of the water. In this example, three resin cultivating base 30 are piled in order to form a block 600mm thick, and 18 blocks are coupled in series to form the 18m long water purifying device 50 (refer to Fig. 8).

The high density portions B of respective resin cultivating base 30 or blocks of the resin cultivating base 30 are coupled using string, rope, wire or other coupling members in order that the resin cultivating base 30 are protected against breakdown at the coupled or linked areas due to resistance of the water or an increase in the weight of grown vegetation 70.

Each top resin cultivating base 30 of the block is provided with 30 recesses 32, where 15 to 30 seedlings of aquatic plants such as reeds are planted.

The water purifying device 50 with the reeds planted thereon is installed in the waterway with left and right equal margins of 250mm long maintained from banks. The resin cultivating base 30 are arranged in the waterway such that the spaces 31 in which living things in the water live or through which fish passes extend across the waterway.

The water purifying device 50 may be fixed using rods 52 bridging across the waterway so that it neither rises to the surface nor flows as for example shown in Fig. 9.

Alternatively, the resin cultivating base 30 may be provided with weights.

In order to purify a relatively wide open water system such as a river lake or marsh, the water purifying device 50 may be tied to posts 54 driven into a bed of the river, lake or marsh. In this case, there may be some spaces around the water purifying device 50 so that it can remain afloat depending upon varying depth of water, as shown in Fig. 10. Further, it is possible to control the height of the water purifying device 50, e.g. by reducing the number of resin cultivating base 30 to be piled so that it does not come into contact with the bed of the waterway, lake or marsh.

The water purifying device 50 tied to posts with tolerances maintained around itself remains afloat in accordance with the increase or decrease of the volume of water, so that it is possible to prevent vegetation from being buried in the water or its roots 71

The low and high density portions A and B of the resin cultivating base 30 can be separately produced, or they are cut to appropriate lengths respectively. For example, referring to Fig. 11, a water purifying device 50 may have a two-tier structure, in which a resin cultivating base 30B made of the high density portion B is positioned under a resin cultivating base 30A made of low density portion A. In this case, upper parts of vegetation roots are supported in the resin cultivating base 30A while lower parts thereof are supported in the resin cultivating base 30B. A water flow space H is formed between the high density portion B and the bed of the waterway W.

Although not shown, a plurality of the resin cultivating base 30 having both the low and high density portions in a unit base may be stacked up. Alternatively, the resin cultivating base 30A having the low density portion A is placed at an upper position, and the resin cultivating base 30 having both the low and high density portions A and B in a unit base may be placed under the resin cultivating base 30A. Further, the resin cultivating base 30 having both the low and high density portions A and B in a unit base is placed at an upper position, and the resin cultivating base 30B with the high density portion B is placed under the resin cultivating base 30.

Pipes P for generating bubbles are provided in the water flow space H in order to ventilate the river, lake, marsh, or waterway W communicating with reservoirs such as purifying tanks of a sewage processing plant.

The foregoing multi-tier structure is effective in maintaining the rigidity, improving the buoyancy, promoting uniform dispersion of the air throughout the resin cultivating base, supplying a sufficient amount of the air to vegetation roots, keeping upper parts of vegetation roots approximately 10cm above the water surface, and protecting vegetation roots against decaying. These features are particularly advantageous for growing land plants such as kenaf using the resin cultivating base.

Further, it is possible to juxtapose a plurality of waterways W communicating with a reservoir, and to return the water purified by the water purifying device to a river including the waterway W. Although not shown, a water purifying device comprising resin cultivating base may be installed in a single waterway or a plurality of waterways.

Such a water purifying device may be covered by a vinyl house and then accommodated in a green house in order to promote growth of vegetation in winter.

Still further, as shown in Fig. 12, when the three-tier structure is employed, the second resin cultivating base, the resin cultivating base near the border of the upper and lower resin cultivating base or the resin cultivating base near the surface of the water may have four corners thereof fixedly supported by a frame made of hollow and light synthetic resin woods disclosed in Japanese Patent No. 2872590, so that the water purifying device remains afloat as planted vegetation grows thereon.

17

The open ends of the hollow space of synthetic resin woods may be closed by caps, or the hollow space may be preferably filled with buoyant foamed styrol and are closed at the open ends. This is effective in keeping the water purifying device afloat.

When a plurality of resin cultivating base are stacked up, they are preferably coupled via the high density portions at four corners thereof using fixtures such as bolts and nuts and holes at the four corners. More preferably, the fixtures may be fixedly attached via stays to a frame constituted by the synthetic resin woods.

The buoyancy of the synthetic resin woods with the voids of 70%, length of 1000mm, width of 200mm and height of 100mm is approximately 13.5kg.

Referring to Fig. 13, the water purifying device including resin cultivating base in the multi-tier structure is fitted in a square frame assembled using the hollow synthetic resin woods and placed on the bed of the waterway.

As shown in Fig. 14, support poles S made of the synthetic resin woods and standing on the bed of the waterway W may pass through spaces 31 of the resin cultivating base which are free from filaments, thereby fixedly supporting the resin cultivating base.

Although not shown, the resin cultivating base in which each low portion and each high density portion are oriented in one direction in a unit base may be piled such that the directions of the low and high density portions alternately cross.

The resin cultivating base has the voids of 90% to 95% at its low density portions where vegetation is planted, has a springy structure in which the low density portion is reinforced by the high density portions provided at regular intervals. The resin cultivating base is suitable for growing aquatic vegetation such as reeds and bulrush. When the water purifying device comprising the foregoing resin cultivating base is simply installed in the waterway to be purified, vegetation planted on the resin cultivating base grow and have their roots extending in the resin cultivating base. Then, microorganisms breed in spaces in the resin cultivating base where vegetation roots extend, and decompose organisms in the water, thereby purifying the water.

Especially, the resin cultivating base made of resin which does not corrode

With the water purifying device and the water purifying method of the invention, vegetation planted on the resin cultivating base can beautify river banks which have become desolate due to bank protection works or the like, i.e. contribute to restoration of beautiful scenery inherent to the waterway.

Thus the broadest claims that follow are not directed to a machine that is configured in a specific way. Instead, said broadest claims are intended to protect the heart or essence of this breakthrough invention. This invention is clearly new and useful. Moreover, it was not obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time it was made, in view of the prior art when considered as a whole.

Moreover, in view of the revolutionary nature of this invention, it is clearly a pioneering invention. As such, the claims that follow are entitled to very broad interpretation so as to protect the ^{heart}~~beat~~ of this invention, as a matter of law.

19

therebetween.

Now that the invention has been described:

11136	11076	11023	11018	10940	10935	10930	10925	10920	10915	10910	10905	10900	10895	10890	10885	10880	10875	10870	10865	10860	10855	10850	10845	10840	10835	10830	10825	10820	10815	10810	10805	10800	10795	10790	10785	10780	10775	10770	10765	10760	10755	10750	10745	10740	10735	10730	10725	10720	10715	10710	10705	10700	10695	10690	10685	10680	10675	10670	10665	10660	10655	10650	10645	10640	10635	10630	10625	10620	10615	10610	10605	10600	10595	10590	10585	10580	10575	10570	10565	10560	10555	10550	10545	10540	10535	10530	10525	10520	10515	10510	10505	10500	10495	10490	10485	10480	10475	10470	10465	10460	10455	10450	10445	10440	10435	10430	10425	10420	10415	10410	10405	10400	10395	10390	10385	10380	10375	10370	10365	10360	10355	10350	10345	10340	10335	10330	10325	10320	10315	10310	10305	10300	10295	10290	10285	10280	10275	10270	10265	10260	10255	10250	10245	10240	10235	10230	10225	10220	10215	10210	10205	10200	10195	10190	10185	10180	10175	10170	10165	10160	10155	10150	10145	10140	10135	10130	10125	10120	10115	10110	10105	10100	10095	10090	10085	10080	10075	10070	10065	10060	10055	10050	10045	10040	10035	10030	10025	10020	10015	10010	10005	10000	9995	9990	9985	9980	9975	9970	9965	9960	9955	9950	9945	9940	9935	9930	9925	9920	9915	9910	9905	9900	9895	9890	9885	9880	9875	9870	9865	9860	9855	9850	9845	9840	9835	9830	9825	9820	9815	9810	9805	9800	9795	9790	9785	9780	9775	9770	9765	9760	9755	9750	9745	9740	9735	9730	9725	9720	9715	9710	9705	9700	9695	9690	9685	9680	9675	9670	9665	9660	9655	9650	9645	9640	9635	9630	9625	9620	9615	9610	9605	9600	9595	9590	9585	9580	9575	9570	9565	9560	9555	9550	9545	9540	9535	9530	9525	9520	9515	9510	9505	9500	9495	9490	9485	9480	9475	9470	9465	9460	9455	9450	9445	9440	9435	9430	9425	9420	9415	9410	9405	9400	9395	9390	9385	9380	9375	9370	9365	9360	9355	9350	9345	9340	9335	9330	9325	9320	9315	9310	9305	9300	9295	9290	9285	9280	9275	9270	9265	9260	9255	9250	9245	9240	9235	9230	9225	9220	9215	9210	9205	9200	9195	9190	9185	9180	9175	9170	9165	9160	9155	9150	9145	9140	9135	9130	9125	9120	9115	9110	9105	9100	9095	9090	9085	9080	9075	9070	9065	9060	9055	9050	9045	9040	9035	9030	9025	9020	90
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	----